(g) if so, details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned by the Centre; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the State of Forest Report 2003, published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), the mangrove cover which was 4482 ha in 2001, has reduced to 4461 ha in 2003, which is 21 km^2 of the total mangrove area and according to FSI this net decrease is not loss of mangrove cover but is an interpretational correction.

(c) Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 has been issued by Government for the purpose of protecting the coastal areas which *inter-alia* also aims at conservation of mangroves. The said notification prohibits developmental activities in the mangrove areas other than those essential activities specified in the same notification. Besides, the Ministry also has a Scheme on Conservation and Management of mangroves.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal envisages preparation of management action plan for conservation and management of mangroves at Kannur and Vimbanad in Kerala.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) For the above projects a sum of Rs. 100.46 lakhs has been sanctioned in the financial year 2006-2007.

(h) Does not arise.

Draft of SAARC Convention

1890. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 14th SAARC Summit held in Delhi on 3rd and 4th of April, 2007, the New Delhi declaration had a clause noting India's initiatives to prepare a draft of a SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance aiming at further facilitation of extradition of criminals;

(b) if so, whether that draft has been prepared; and

(c) whether its adoption awaits the next SAARC Summit or it would be done through circulation or by any other extant practice or procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sri Lanka will be hosting a Meeting of Legal Advisers to examine the proposal for a draft Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters in September, 2007.